

January 3, 2008

ATTN: Delores Brown
Chief Office of Environmental Compliance
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: Proposed DWR Adoption of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Latest Proposed Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project

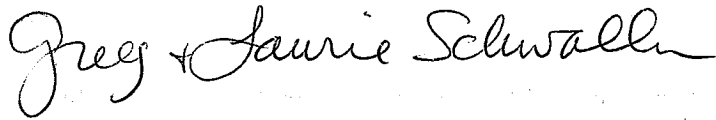
Dear Ms. Brown:

We are writing to OPPOSE permanent adoption of the Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project because these amendments clearly oppose the public interest and are extremely detrimental to the health and safety of the public and the environment.

1. The DWR and SWP must not eliminate contract provisions that provide drought safeguards for urban areas. DWR's own analysis has shown that in dry years urban water users may find their water deliveries reduced by a quarter if the Monterey Amendments are adopted. Water companies that strongly promote water conservation should get credit for their successful efforts when water allocations decisions are being made in drought years.
2. We are outraged that the Monterey Amendments would give away the Kern Water Bank to private interests; this must not happen. As our state's largest groundwater storage facility, this vital resource must be managed by the state for the benefit of all our citizens; it must not be allowed to be controlled by private interests for their own gain at the expense of the public.
3. We also oppose the Monterey Amendments because they eliminate the requirement for DWR to determine the realistic yield of the SWP; this makes rational water allocation and delivery impossible. California is already suffering hugely from the effects of relying on "paper water," including the destruction by over-pumping of the absolutely irreplaceable resource of the Bay-Delta.
4. We further oppose the Monterey Amendments because they would transfer millions of dollars in costs to taxpayers, while rebating millions of dollars to individual water agencies.

We are appalled that DWR would consider adopting these proposed amendments when they are so contrary to the good of California. Our state is already facing a horrendous water crisis. Please do not make it worse by permanently adopting the abominable Monterey Amendments. Thank you for acting in the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg & Laurie Schwaller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Greg and Laurie Schwaller
43857 South Fork Drive
Three Rivers, CA 93271